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as far as they do not coincide with those of nature, appear as what they really are, namely, as secondary and often artificial and accidental modifications of natural conditions. By means of such an arrangement the chances for tracing the connection between physiographical stimuli and human responses are much superior to those in an arrangement by political divisions exclusively, and the author has not failed to make the most of them. Especially the chapters devoted to the history of the divisions in the light of geographic conditions deserve the interest of the American reader.

In accordance with the custom for scientific books in Germany, the book is not illustrated with pictures; but it has what, to the scientist, means more than pictures, namely, an unusually large number of diagrams and charts of all kinds to illustrate the text, such as special maps of interesting places, geological sketches and diagrams, charts illustrating climate, vegetation, ethnic and religious conditions, density of population, production, lines of traffic, etc. Whoever, in reading a scientific book, has been exasperated with futile attempts to locate on charts, not drawn for that special subject, the place relations of that which he read about, will appreciate how much the text gains in value by such additions, and, no doubt, even the student without any knowledge of the language of the text will welcome the book for this wealth of illustrative material which he may utilize just as well in studying texts in different languages.

The bibliographic notices have been given with regard to the needs of the student rather than to indicate the sources of the author; they include for each division the standard works in the different languages. Another feature which makes the book excellent to work with is the threefold index of names, topics and authors. It is to be hoped that we may not have to wait long for the second volume, which is expected to deal with the other continents. M. K. G.

**Allgemeine und spezielle Wirtschaftsgeographie. By Dr. Ernst Friedrich.** 2d edition. 433 pp., 3 maps and index. Göschen, Leipzig, 1907.

The most important changes which the author has made in this second edition of his book have been in the general part. The separate treatment of the dynamic and static parts of economic geography has been abandoned, the discussion of the geographic distribution of products having been combined with that of the working forces of economy. The treatment of the four fundamental stages of economy, on the other hand, has been enlarged, and likewise that of the natural conditions and geographical distribution. Theoretically, Dr. Friedrich still adheres to his method of making man rather than natural conditions the prominent factor in economic geography. The relation of man and nature, as far as economic geography is concerned, he compares to that of the sculptor and the marble: it is the artist, not the material, that is pre-eminently responsible for the finished product. The shape of the latter depends on the equation between the effort of the maker and the resistance of the material; the greater the skill of the former, the better the result. Likewise, in economy, existing conditions are an equation between the resistance of natural conditions and man's skill in conquering them, and economic progress means the gradual emancipation of man from the control of geographical conditions, hence the four economic stages of the author. The resistance of natural conditions, which man has to overcome, differs in the different localities, but so does the effort or skill of man in overcoming it. As, in spite of similar geographic conditions, the economic conditions of any two regions may differ in very striking ways, it is evident that in the equation between nature and

man, which is called economy, the latter is the more potent factor. Thus Dr. Friedrich makes very little allowance for the influence of natural conditions in economic geography, because the ingenuity of man, by means of science and trade, may change the economic aspects of a given region almost beyond recognition. The only geographical factor whose influence man has never been entirely able to overcome are the climatic conditions, and it is in these, therefore, that the author places the relation between economics and geography.

The special part of the book has been brought up to date generally and been enriched by many new statistics. The book remains in its present shape, as it was in the first, one of the most valuable contributions to the subject, from the practical as well as the scientific point of view.

M. K. G.

**Alaska. Ein Beitrag zur Geschichte Nordischer Kolonisation. Von Prof. Dr. H. Erdmann.** 215 pp., 68 Illustrations and Sketch Maps and Folded Map. D. Reimer (E. Vohsen), Berlin, 1909. (Price, M. 8.)

This book gives the results of personal observation and studies by one of Germany's most noted technical chemists, who visited Alaska in 1906, at the request of the Imperial Minister of Education. Professor Erdmann has brought to his task the experience gained through previous journeys to workings in auriferous gravels and gold mines along the eastern border of the Ural Mountains, from Kotchkar to Berizov, the mines of the Altai Mountains and eastern Siberia, the rich localities of northern Mongolia, Manchuria and Japan, and of China proper, including those of the German sphere of influence in the region of Shantung. The general result of the author's studies is that Germany, sooner or later, must possess gold-producing localities within her own territory, colonial or other, or lose standing among the world powers. Another conclusion is that the local conditions surrounding gold-bearing localities vary indefinitely, and that lucrative extraction is only possible when all these local conditions are taken into account in determining the manner of winning the precious metal. The truth of the latter conclusion is likely to be generally accepted, but the former seems open to debate.

Professor Erdmann's book falls naturally into four main parts in his treatment of the gold fields of Alaska. These are southern Alaska and the primary occurrences, Dawson and the Klondike region, the Fairbanks district in mid-Alaska and the coast district of Nome and the Bering Sea. The author sketches briefly the history of each region. He relates the early discoveries by Joseph Juneau of gold on the mainland in the now exhausted region around the town that bears his name. From the "city" of Juneau one looks across the Gastineau Channel to Douglas Island, where in the year 1881 John Treadwell, a San Francisco builder, unwillingly began to prospect a tract of land that he had been obliged to take in satisfaction of a \$150 debt. Now almost 1,200 men are required there to work the famous Treadwell mine, which exploits the only vein quartz that is successfully mined in all Alaska. The author estimates that, in spite of more than twenty-five years of active mining, the Treadwell property is only in the beginning of its history.

The story of the Klondike district is familiar to most American readers. Gold had been known in rather small amounts for some years at Forty Mile on the Yukon River at the International boundary, when Robert Henderson and George Carmack, in 1896, went upstream prospecting, the former up the Hunker branch, the latter up the Bonanza. When the news spread that Carmack was